

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



MARK DAYTON
GOVERNOR

Executive Order 18-08

Establishing the Governor's Task Force on Wild Rice

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, wild rice is the Official State Grain of Minnesota;

Whereas, wild rice is culturally important and spiritually sacred to Minnesota's Tribal Nations;

Whereas, the harvest and cultivation of wild rice is economically important to the State of Minnesota;

Whereas, the availability of wild rice is important to sustaining waterfowl and wildlife;

Whereas, the health of wild rice is dependent on water quality and other habitat conditions;

Whereas, the scientific understanding of the water quality and habitat conditions necessary for restoration and protection of naturally occurring wild rice has advanced through legislatively-funded research;

Whereas, the State of Minnesota has goals to restore degraded wild rice habitat and to protect naturally occurring wild rice stands; and

Whereas, the restoration and protection of wild rice habitat requires collaboration among state agencies, Tribal Nations, wild rice harvesters, industry, conservation advocacy groups, and scientists.

Now, Therefore, I hereby order that:

1. The Governor's Task Force on Wild Rice ("Wild Rice Task Force") is established with the following members to be appointed by the Governor:
 - a. one representative nominated by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council;
 - b. one representative nominated by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe;

- c. two independent scientists with expertise in wild rice research and plant-based aquatic toxicity;
 - d. one non-native wild rice harvester;
 - e. one representative from the ferrous mining industry;
 - f. one representative from the non-ferrous mining industry;
 - g. one representative from a municipal wastewater discharger;
 - h. one representative of an electric utility;
 - i. one representative of a statewide labor organization;
 - j. two representatives from environmental nongovernmental organization; and
 - k. one representative each from the Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency appointed by the commissioner of each entity to serve as an ex officio member.
2. The Wild Rice Task Force must review existing peer-reviewed scientific literature, both state-sponsored and otherwise, to identify information that is available to inform understanding of the impacts of sulfate or other sulfur compounds or habitat conditions on wild rice. The Wild Rice Task Force shall also identify information gaps in the scientific literature and make recommendations on priorities for wild rice research.
3. The Wild Rice Task Force will prepare a report addressing the following questions:
 - a. Which water bodies used for producing wild rice should be added to or removed from the list of wild rice waters identified in Minn. R. 7050.0470, subpart 1 and part 7050.0471 subparts 3 through 9 in the Revisor's draft of rules proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency dated March 16, 2018?
 - b. What are the best management practices necessary for restoration and protection of natural wild rice stands?
 - c. What is the condition of wild rice waters downstream of selected permitted wastewater dischargers?
 - d. Are there any potential mitigating factors for wild rice to grow in waters with sulfate concentrations greater than 10 mg/L?
 - e. What is the level of funding needed and sources of potential funding to support: data collection and research; restoration and protection activities; best management practices; sulfate minimization plans; and the development and installation of cost-effective sulfate treatment technologies?
4. The Wild Rice Task Force will be convened by the Environmental Quality Board which may contract for consulting and facilitation services. The Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will provide technical expertise to support the Wild Rice Task Force.
5. The Wild Rice Task Force shall deliver its completed report to the Governor by December 15, 2018.
6. After receiving the completed Wild Rice Task Force report the Governor shall transmit the report to the chairs and minority leads of the Minnesota House and Senate environmental policy committees and to the Minnesota Tribal Nations.

7. On behalf of the Governor, the Environmental Quality Board will engage in formal consultation with Minnesota Tribal Nations on the recommendations contained in the Wild Rice Task Force report.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 4.035, subdivision 3.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on this 30th day of May, 2018.



Mark Dayton
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

